

SPECIFICATION

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[LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY PANEL HAVING REDUCED FLICKER]

Cross Reference To Related Applications

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 10/064,049, filed June 4, 2002, and which is included herein by reference.

Background of Invention

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel, and more particularly, to a liquid crystal display panel with low flicker.

[0003] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0004] A thin film transistor display, such as a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), utilizes many thin film transistors, in conjunction with other elements such as capacitors and bonding pads, arranged in a matrix as switches for driving liquid crystal molecules to produce brilliant images. The advantages of the TFT-LCD over a conventional CRT monitor include better portability, lower power consumption, and lower radiation. Therefore, the TFT-LCD is widely used in various portable products, such as notebooks, personal data assistants (PDA), electronic toys, etc.

[0005] Please refer to Fig.1 and Fig.2. Fig.1 is a schematic diagram of a prior art TFT-LCD. Fig.2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of the TFT-LCD. The TFT-LCD 10 comprises a lower substrate 12. The lower substrate 12 comprises a pixel array 14, a scanning line driving circuit 16, and a data line driving circuit 18. The pixel array 14 includes a plurality of scanning lines (not shown) and a plurality of data lines (not

shown). A plurality of pixels (ex. pixels A, B, C, B", and C") is therefore defined by the scanning lines and the data lines. The pixel A, B, and C are located on the same scanning line, while the pixel A, B" and C" are located on the same data line.

[0006] As shown in Fig.1, the scanning line driving circuit 16 comprises a plurality of driver IC chips (such as chips 16a, 16b, and 16c), which are directly formed on the lower substrate 12 by utilizing chip-on-glass (COG) technology. Additionally, the driver IC chips are connected to each other by several bus lines 17, which is the so-called wiring on array (WOA) technology.

[0007] As shown in Fig.2, a pixel 20 comprises a liquid crystal cell (LC) and a thin film transistor (TFT). The liquid crystal cell (LC) is made of a pixel electrode, a common counter electrode (CE), and a liquid crystal layer inserted there between. The thin film transistor (TFT) comprises a gate electrode connected to a scanning line GL_0 , a drain electrode connected to a data line DL_0 , and a source electrode connected to a pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell. A parasitic capacitor (GS) is produced since the gate electrode and the source electrode of the thin film transistor (TFT) forms an overlapping region. Additionally, the pixel 20 contains a storage capacitor (SC) connected between the liquid crystal cell and a scanning line GL_1 . The storage capacitor is used to reduce the voltage variation of the liquid crystal cell due to current leakage and thus help the liquid crystal cell store electric charges.

[0008] As shown in Fig.2, the light passing through the pixels varies with the voltage applied to the liquid crystal cell. By changing the voltage to the liquid crystal cell, the amount of light passing through each pixel can be changed and thus the TFT-LCD can display predetermined images. The voltage applied to the liquid crystal cell is the difference between the voltage of the common counter electrode and the voltage of the pixel electrode. When the thin film transistor is turned off, the pixel electrode has a floating status. If any fluctuations occur in the voltages of electric elements around the pixel electrode, the fluctuations will cause the voltage of the pixel electrode to deviate from its desirable voltage. The deviation of the voltage of the pixel electrode referred to feed-through voltage (V_{FD}), which is represented by:

[0009]
$$V_{FD} = [C_{CS} / (C_{LC} + C_{SC} + C_{CS})] * \Delta VG \quad (1)$$

[0010] where C_{LC} is the capacitance of the liquid crystal cell (LC), C_{SC} is the capacitance of the storage capacitor (SC), C_{GS} is the capacitance between the source electrode and the gate electrode of the thin film transistor, and ΔV_G is the amplitude of a pulse voltage applied to the gate electrode.

[0011] In general, adjusting the voltage of the common counter electrode can compensate for the feed-through voltage. However, because the resistance and the capacitance of the scanning line round the falling edge of a pulse voltage applied to the gate electrode, a feed-through voltage of a pixel decreases as the distance between the scanning line driving circuit and the pixel increases. For example, as shown in Fig.1, feed-through voltage of the pixel A is larger than that of the pixel B, whose feed-through voltage is larger than that of the pixel C (that is, $(V_{FD})_A > (V_{FD})_B > (V_{FD})_C$ where $(V_{FD})_A$, $(V_{FD})_B$, and $(V_{FD})_C$ represent feed-through voltages of the pixels A, B, C, respectively). Accordingly, it is difficult to compensate feed-through voltages for all pixels by adjusting the voltage of the common counter electrode. Therefore, it is hard to provide a TFT-LCD without flicker.

[0012] Furthermore, the resistances of the bus lines are so large that as a pulse voltage is input into the driver IC chips from the bus lines 17, the input voltages of the driver IC chips are different from one another, which leads to different waveforms of output voltages output from the driver IC chips. For example, as shown in Fig.3, the waveforms of the output voltages output from the chips 16a, 16b, and 16c are quite different. The voltage difference (ΔV_{GA}) output from the chip 16a is larger than the voltage difference (ΔV_{GB}) output from the chip 16b, which is larger than the voltage difference (ΔV_{GC}) output from the chip 16c. Therefore, a feed-through voltage of a pixel will decrease as the distance between the data line driving circuit and the pixel increases. That is, as shown in Fig.1, feed-through voltage of the pixel A is larger than that of the pixel B, whose feed-through voltage is larger than that of the pixel C (that is, $(V_{FD})_A > (V_{FD})_B > (V_{FD})_C$), which make flicker that reduces display quality of an LCD panel.

Summary of Invention

[0013] It is therefore an objective of the invention to provide a liquid crystal display panel with reduced flicker for solving the above-mentioned problems.

[0025] Please refer to Fig.4. Fig.4 is an equivalent circuit diagram according to the present invention. As shown in Fig.4, the equivalent circuit 40 comprises at least pixels A, B, and C, which respectively correspond to pixels A, B, and C shown in Fig. 1. Pixel A comprises a liquid crystal cell LC and a thin film transistor T_A . The liquid crystal cell LC is composed of a pixel electrode, a common counter electrode, and a liquid crystal layer there between, and therefore, the liquid crystal cell LC can be regarded as a liquid crystal capacitor. The thin film transistor T_A includes a gate electrode connected to a scanning line GL_0 , a drain electrode connected to a data line DL_0 , and a source electrode connected to the pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell LC. In addition, a parasitic capacitor GS_A is thus produced when the gate electrode overlaps the source electrode of the thin film transistor T_A . Furthermore, pixel A further comprises a compensating capacitor C_A connected between the pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell LC and the scanning line GL_0 , that is, compensating capacitor C_A is connected to the scanning line GL_0 and either the source electrode of TFT or the pixel electrode, and a storage capacitor SC_A connected between the pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell LC and the scanning line GL_1 .

[0026] Similarly, the pixel B comprises at least a liquid crystal cell LC, a thin film transistor T_B , a storage capacitor SC_B , a compensating capacitor C_B , and additionally, a parasitic capacitor GS_B is generated due to an overlapping region of a gate electrode and a source electrode of the thin film transistor T_B . The pixel C comprises at least a liquid crystal cell LC, a thin film transistor T_C , a storage capacitor SC_C , and a compensating capacitor C_C . In addition, a parasitic capacitor GS_C is formed when a gate electrode overlaps a source electrode of the thin film transistor T_C .

[0027] As shown in Fig.4, the compensating capacitors C_A , C_B , and C_C are respectively connected to the parasitic capacitors GS_A , GS_B , and GS_C in parallel. Therefore, equation (1) can be rewritten as follows:

[0028]
$$V_{FD} = [(C_{GS} + C) / (C_{LC} + C_{SC} + C_{GS} + C)] * \Delta V_G \quad (2)$$

[0029] In equation (2), C represents the capacitance of the compensating capacitor C". Referring to equation (1) and (2), in general, both C_{SC} and C_{LC} are much larger than C_{GS} and C (i.e. $C_{SC}, C_{LC} \gg C_{GS}, C$). Therefore, equation (2) can be rewritten as

follows:

$$[0030] \quad V_{FD} = [C_{GS} + C / (C_{LC} + C_{SC})] * \Delta V_G \quad (3)$$

[0031] Referring to Fig.4 and equation (3). Due to the resistance and the capacitance of the scanning line GL_0 , if $(C_{GS})_A = (C_{GS})_B = (C_{GS})_C$, $(C_{SC})_A = (C_{SC})_B = (C_{SC})_C$, $(C_{LC})_A = (C_{LC})_B = (C_{LC})_C$, and $C_A = C_B = C_C$, the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C is $(V_{FD})_A > (V_{FD})_B > (V_{FD})_C$, which leads to a flicker effect of the LCD panel. As described above, the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C has to be $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$ in order to reduce the flicker effect of the LCD panel. According to equation (3), adjusting the capacitance of the compensating capacitor C'' , the parasitic capacitor GS , or the storage capacitor SC can be tried to achieve approximately equal feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C. The methods for adjusting the capacitance of the compensating capacitor C'' , the parasitic capacitor GS , or the storage capacitor SC are described as follows:

[0032] (1) If $C_A < C_B < C_C$, $(C_{GS})_A = (C_{GS})_B = (C_{GS})_C$, $(C_{SC})_A = (C_{SC})_B = (C_{SC})_C$, and $(C_{LC})_A = (C_{LC})_B = (C_{LC})_C$, then the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C is $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$. That is, the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C, are approximately equal as long as the condition $C_A < C_B < C_C$ is achieved. Accordingly, each of the pixels will have an approximately identical feed-through voltage, while the capacitance of the compensating capacitor C'' increases as the distance between the input end of the scanning line and the pixel increases.

[0033] (2) If $(C_{GS})_A < (C_{GS})_B < (C_{GS})_C$, $C_A = C_B = C_C$, $(C_{SC})_A = (C_{SC})_B = (C_{SC})_C$, and $(C_{LC})_A = (C_{LC})_B = (C_{LC})_C$, then the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C is $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$. That is, the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C, are approximately equal as long as the condition $(C_{GS})_A < (C_{GS})_B < (C_{GS})_C$ is achieved. As a result, while the capacitance of the parasitic capacitor GC increases as the distance between the input end of the scanning line and the pixel increases, each of the pixels will have approximately the same feed-through voltage.

[0034] (3) If $(C_{SC})_A > (C_{SC})_B > (C_{SC})_C$, $C_A = C_B = C_C$, $(C_{GS})_A = (C_{GS})_B = (C_{GS})_C$, and $(C_{LC})_A = (C_{LC})_B = (C_{LC})_C$, then the feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C is $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$. That is, the feed-through voltages of pixels A,

B, C, are approximately equal as long as the condition $(C_{SC})_A > (C_{SC})_B > (C_{SC})_C$ is achieved. As a result, while the capacitance of the storage capacitor SC decreases as the distance between the input end of the scanning line and the pixel increases, each of the pixels will have approximately the same feed-through voltage.

[0035] Moreover, the above-mentioned methods (1), (2), and (3) can be combined with one another to achieve approximately equal feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C. The following description describes various embodiments of the present invention according to the above-mentioned methods (1), (2), and (3).

[0036] Please refer to Fig.5(A) and Fig.5(B). Fig.5(A) and Fig.5(B) are top views of a pixel array of an LCD panel according to the first embodiment of the present invention. Moreover, the first embodiment of the present invention is implemented according to the above-mentioned method (1). As shown in Fig.5(A), a pixel array 50 comprises at least a scanning line 52 electrically connected to a scanning line driving circuit 54, and data lines 56a, 56b, 56c, which are electrically connected to a data line driving circuit (not shown). Additionally, the pixel array 50 further comprises pixels A, B, and C, which respectively include thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C and corresponding liquid crystal cells (not shown). The gate electrodes 60a, 60b, 60c of thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are connected to the scanning line 52. The drain electrodes 62a, 62b, 62c of the thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are respectively connected to the data lines 56a, 56b, 56c. The source electrodes 64a, 64b, 64c of thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are connected to pixel electrodes 58a, 58b, 58c of the liquid crystal cells separately. Furthermore, semi-conductive layers 66a, 66b, 66c are respectively disposed between the gate electrodes and the source, the drain electrodes.

[0037] As shown in Fig.5(A), the pixels A, B, C further comprise overlapping regions 68a, 68b, and 68c. The overlapping region 68a is formed by lapping the source electrode 64a over the gate electrode 60a, a portion of the scanning line 52. Equally, the overlapping regions 68b, 68c are respectively formed by lapping the source electrodes 64b, 64c over the gate electrodes 60b, 60c, a portion of the scanning line 52. In addition, the pixels A, B, C further comprise overlapping regions 70a, 70b, and 70c. The pixel electrodes 58a, 58b, 58c include extension portions 69a, 69b, 69c

pixels A, B, C, are approximately equal (i.e. $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$). In brief, the second embodiment utilizes adjusting the capacitances of the parasitic capacitors GS of the pixels to achieve approximately equal feed-through voltages of the pixels within the part I of the pixel array 50.

[0044] In addition, adjusting only the capacitances of the parasitic capacitors GS of the pixels is not suitable for a large-scaled LCD panel, because of restrictions on the sizes of both the gate electrodes and the source electrodes. As a result, in the second embodiment of the present invention, the pixel array 50 further comprises a part II, and moreover, the pixels within the part II utilize adjusting the capacitances of the compensating capacitors C" of the pixels to achieve approximately equal feed-through voltages. The structures of the pixels within the part II can be designed by referring to the first embodiment of the present invention, and will not be described again.

[0045] Please refer to Fig.7. Fig.7 is a top view of a pixel array of an LCD panel according to the third embodiment of the present invention. Furthermore, the third embodiment of the present invention is implemented according the above-mentioned methods (1) and (3). As shown in Fig.7, the pixels A, B, C comprise overlapping regions 70a, 70b, and 70c. The pixel electrodes 58a, 58b, 58c include extension portions 69a, 69b, 69c respectively. The overlapping region 70a, 70b, 70c are respectively formed by lapping the extension portions 69a, 69b, 69c over the scanning line 52. The area of the overlapping region 70a is smaller than that of the overlapping region 70b, whose area is smaller than that of the overlapping region 70c. In addition, the pixels A, B, and C further comprise overlapping regions 74a, 74b, and 74c respectively. The overlapping regions 74a, 74b, 74c are separately formed by lapping the pixel electrodes 58a, 58b, 58c over the scan line 52a. Moreover, the area of the overlapping region 74a is larger than that of the overlapping region 74b, whose area is larger than that of the overlapping region 74c.

[0046] Referring to Fig.7 and Fig.4, the overlapping regions 74a, 74b, and 74c respectively correspond to the storage capacitors SC_A , SC_B , and SC_C , while the overlapping regions 70a, 70b, and 70c respectively correspond to the compensating capacitors C_A , C_B , and C_C . Since the areas of the overlapping regions 70a, 70b,

and 70c are increased gradually, the capacitances of the compensating capacitor C_A , C_B , and C_C are increased sequentially (i.e. $C_A < C_B < C_C$). Moreover, the areas of the overlapping regions 74a, 74b, and 74c are decreased gradually, so that the capacitances of the storage capacitors SC_A , SC_B , and SC_C are therefore decreased sequentially (i.e. $(C_{SC})_A > (C_{SC})_B > (C_{SC})_C$). Thus, feed-through voltages of pixels A, B, C, can be approximately equal (i.e. $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$).

[0047] In addition, the capacitance of a storage capacitor SC cannot be reduced without limitation, because as the storage capacitor SC gets farther from the scanning line driving circuit 54, its capacitance becomes smaller. As a result, it is hard for such a storage capacitor with low capacitance to help the liquid crystal cells hold electric charges. Therefore, as the capacitance of the storage capacitor SC cannot be further reduced, the third embodiment of the present invention will only adjust the capacitances of the compensating capacitors C of the pixels to achieve approximately equal feed-through voltages. Accordingly, the third embodiment of the present invention can not only provide an identical feed-through voltage for each of the pixels, but also prevent a storage capacitor from losing its ability to hold electric charges of the liquid crystal cells.

[0048] Please refer to Fig.8. Fig.8 is a top view of a pixel array of an LCD panel according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention. Moreover, the fourth embodiment of the present invention is implemented according the above-mentioned method (1). As shown in Fig.8, a pixel array 80 comprises at least a plurality of scanning lines 82a and 82b electrically connected to a scanning line driving circuit 84, and data lines 86a, 86b electrically connected to a data line driving circuit 88. Additionally, the pixel array 80 further comprises pixels A, B, and C, which correspond to the pixels A, B, and C of Fig.1. The pixels A, B, and C comprise thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C and corresponding liquid crystal cells (not shown). The gate electrodes 92a, 92b, 92c of thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are connected to the scanning lines 82a. The drain electrodes 94a, 94b, 94c of the thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are respectively connected to the data line 86a. The source electrodes 96a, 96b, 96c of thin film transistors T_A , T_B , T_C are connected to pixel electrodes 90a, 90b, 90c of the liquid crystal cells respectively. Furthermore, semi-conductive layers 98a, 98b, 98c are separately disposed between the gate electrodes and the source, the drain electrodes.

[0049] In addition, as shown in Fig.8, the pixel electrodes 90a, 90b, and 90c include extension portions 99a, 99b, and 99c. Thus, overlapping region 100a, 100b, and 100c are formed in the pixels A, B", and C". The overlapping region 100a is formed by lapping the extension portion 99a over the scanning line 82a. Similarly, the overlapping regions 100b, 100c are respectively formed by lapping the extension portions 99b, 99c over the scanning lines 82a. The area of the overlapping region 100a is smaller than that of the overlapping region 100b, whose area is smaller than that of the overlapping region 100c. Additionally, the pixel electrodes 90a, 90b, and 90c are lapped over the scanning lines 82b to form overlapping regions 102a, 102b, and 102c, which form the storage capacitors of the pixels A, B", and C".

[0050] In the fourth embodiment, the overlapping regions 100a, 100b, and 100c respectively correspond to the compensating capacitors C_A , CB, and CC (not shown). Since the areas of the overlapping regions 100a, 100b, and 100c are increased sequentially, the capacitance of the compensating capacitor C_A is smaller than the capacitance of the compensating capacitor CB, whose capacitance is smaller than that of the compensating capacitor CC (i.e. $C_A < CB < CC$). Thus, feed-through voltages of pixels A, B", C", are approximately equal (that is, $(V_{FD})_A \approx (V_{FD})_B \approx (V_{FD})_C$).

[0051] Alternatively, the overlapping regions 100a, 100b, and 100c can be formed by extending the scanning lines 82a under the pixel electrodes 90a, 90b, and 90c, which can reach the same purpose as the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0052] The present invention introduces a compensating capacitor, formed by lapping a pixel electrode over a corresponding scanning line, into a pixel. By adjusting the capacitances of the compensating capacitors of the pixels, the feed-through voltages of the pixels are approximately equal, thus reducing a flicker effect of an LCD panel and further improving display quality of an LCD panel.

[0053] Those skilled in the art will readily observe that numerous modifications and alterations of the device may be made while retaining the teachings of the invention. Accordingly, the above disclosure should be construed as limited only by the metes and bound of the appended claims.

[0054]